

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please **AMEND** claims 25, 31, 38, 49 and 51 as shown below.

The following is a complete list of all claims in this application.

1. (Previously Presented) A network switching device comprising:

an ingress module configured to receive frames of data from a channel and store the frames in one or more buffers, wherein each frame of data has one of a plurality of classes of service;

one or more queues;

a forwarding module configured to enqueue each of the one or more buffers by sending a pointer for each of the one or more buffers to the one or more queues after the ingress module stores the data frames in one or more of the one or more buffers; and

a plurality of counters comprising one counter for each of the classes of service, wherein each of the counters is configured to

store a count for the channel for a respective one of the classes of service,

increment the count when the forwarding module enqueues one of the buffers storing the data of one of the frames having the respective class of service, and

decrement the count after the data stored in a buffer for a frame received from the channel and having the respective class of service is transmitted from the network switching device; and

an egress module configured to exercise flow control on the channel for each of the classes of service when the count for the class of service exceeds a predetermined threshold for the class of service.

2. (Previously Presented) The network switching device of claim 1:

wherein, to exercise flow control for one of the classes of service, the egress module is further configured to send a pause frame to the channel, and wherein the pause frame indicates the one of the classes of service.

3. (Previously Presented) The network switching device of claim 1:

wherein the egress module is further configured to terminate flow control on the channel for each of the classes of service when the count for the class of service falls below a further predetermined threshold for the class of service.

4. (Previously Presented) The network switching device of claim 3:

wherein, to terminate flow control for one of the classes of service, the egress module is further configured to send a pause release frame to the channel, and wherein the pause release frame indicates the one of the classes of service.

5-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) An integrated circuit comprising the network switching device of claim 1.

8. (Original) A network switch comprising the network switching device of claim 1.

9. (Original) An output-queued network switch comprising the network switching device of claim 1.

10. (Original) The network switching device of claim 1, further comprising:  
a memory comprising the buffers.

11. (Original) An integrated circuit comprising the network switching device of claim 10.

12. (Previously Presented) The network switching device of claim 1, further comprising:

a reserve module configured to reserve one or more buffers to the channel;  
wherein a pause threshold for the channel is a function of at least one of the group consisting of

the number of the buffers reserved to the channel; and  
the number of buffers neither reserved nor enqueued.

13. (Previously Presented) The network switching device of claim 3, further comprising:

a reserve module configured to reserve one or more buffers to the channel;  
wherein a pause release threshold for the channel is a function of at least one of  
the group consisting of  
the number of the buffers reserved to the channel; and  
the number of buffers neither reserved nor enqueued.

14. (Previously Presented) A network switching device comprising:  
ingress module means for receiving frames of data from a channel, wherein each  
frame of data has one of a plurality of classes of service, and to store the data in one or  
more buffers;

one or more queue means for queuing the one or more buffers;

forwarding module means for enqueueing each of the one or more buffers by  
sending a pointer for each of the one or more buffers to one or more of the one or more  
queue means after the ingress module means stores the data of one of the frames in  
the one or more buffers;

a plurality of counter means comprising one counter means for each of the  
classes of service, each of the counter means for:

storing a count for the channel for a respective one of the classes of  
service,

incrementing the count when the forwarding module enqueues one of the  
buffers storing the data from one of the frames having the respective class of  
service, and

decrementing the count after the data stored in a buffer for a frame received from the channel and having the respective class of service is transmitted from the network switching device; and egress module means for exercising flow control on the channel for each of the classes of service when the count for the class of service exceeds a predetermined threshold for the class of service.

15. (Original) The network switching device of claim 14: wherein, to exercise flow control for one of the classes of service, the egress module means sends a pause frame to the channel; and wherein the pause frame indicates the one of the classes of service.

16. (Previously Presented) The network switching device of claim 14: wherein the egress module means terminates flow control on the channel for each of the classes of service when the count for the class of service falls below a further predetermined threshold for the class of service.

17. (Original) The network switching device of claim 16: wherein, to terminate flow control for one of the classes of service, the egress module means sends a pause release frame to the channel, and wherein the pause release frame indicates the one of the classes of service.

18-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Original) An integrated circuit comprising the network switching device of claim 14.

21. (Original) A network switch comprising the network switching device of claim 14.

22. (Original) An output-queued network switch comprising the network switching device of claim 14.

23. (Previously Presented) The network switching device of claim 14, further comprising: reserve module means for reserving one or more buffers to the channel; wherein a pause threshold for the channel is a function of at least one of the group consisting of:

the number of the buffers reserved to the channel; and  
the number of buffers neither reserved nor enqueued.

24. (Previously Presented) The network switching device of claim 16, further comprising:

reserve module means for reserving one or more buffers to the channel;  
wherein a pause release threshold for the channel is a function of at least one of the group consisting of  
the number of the buffers reserved to the channel; and

the number of buffers neither reserved nor enqueued.

25. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving frames of data from a channel using an ingress module, wherein each frame of data has one of a plurality of classes of service;

storing the data in one or more buffers;

enqueueing each of the one or more buffers by sending a pointer for each of the one or more buffers to one or more output queues after storing the data of one of the frames in the buffer;

storing a count for the channel for each of the classes of service;

incrementing the count for one of the classes of service enqueueing one of the buffers storing the data from one of the frames received from the channel and having the one of the classes of service;

decrementing the count for one of the classes of service after the data stored in a buffer for a frame received from the channel and having the one of the classes of service is transmitted; and

exercising flow control using an egress module on the channel for each of the classes of service when the count for one of the classes of service exceeds a predetermined threshold for the class of service.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein exercising flow control for one of the classes of service comprises:

sending a pause frame to the channel, wherein the pause frame indicates the one of the classes of service to be paused.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

terminating flow control on the channel for each of the classes of service when the count for the one of the classes falls below a further predetermined threshold for the class of service.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein terminating flow control for one of the classes of service comprises:

sending a pause release frame to the channel, and wherein the pause release frame indicates the one of the classes of service to be released.

29-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having a stored computer program embodying instructions executable by a computer, which, when executed by the computer, cause the computer to control an apparatus having an ingress module connected to a channel and an egress module connected to the channel, the instructions comprising:

instructions for storing data in one or more buffers for frames of the data received by the ingress module from the channel, wherein each frame has one of a plurality of classes of service;



instructions for enqueueing each of the one or more buffers by sending a pointer for each of the one or more buffers to one or more output queues after storing the data for one of the frames in the buffer;

instructions for storing a count for the channel for each of the classes of service;

instructions for incrementing the count for one of the classes of service when enqueueing one of the buffers storing the data for one of the frames received from the channel and having one of the classes of service, and

instructions for decrementing the count for one of the classes of service after the data stored in a buffer for a frame received from the channel and having the one of the classes of service is transmitted; and

instructions for causing the egress module to exercise flow control on the channel for each of the classes of service when the count for ~~one of the classes~~ class of service exceeds a predetermined threshold for the class of service.

32. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 31, wherein the instructions for causing the egress module to exercise flow control for one of the classes of service comprises:

instructions for causing the egress module to send a pause frame to the channel, wherein the pause frame indicates the one of the classes of service to be paused.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 31, the instructions further comprising:

instructions for causing the egress module to terminate flow control on the channel for each of the classes of service when the count for each class of service falls below a further predetermined threshold for the class of service.

34. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 33, wherein the instructions for causing the egress module to terminate flow control for one of the classes of service comprises:

instructions for causing the egress module to send a pause release frame to the channel, wherein the pause release frame indicates the one of the classes of service to be released.

35-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously Presented) A network switching device comprising:  
a plurality of counters for a plurality of classes of service, respectively, each counter configured to:

store a count for a respective one of the classes of service;

increment the count when one of buffers storing one or more frames of data having the respective class of service is enqueued by sending a pointer for each of the one or more buffers to one or more output queues; and

decrement the count after the one or more frames of data stored in the one or more buffers is transmitted from the network switching device;

an egress module configured to generate a pause frame indicating one or more of the classes of service to be paused when one or more counts for the one or more classes of service exceed a predetermined threshold for the one or more classes of service; and

an ingress module configured to receive a pause frame;

wherein, in response to the received pause frame, the egress module is further configured to cease to transmit the frames of data having the one or more classes of service to be paused.

38. (Currently Amended) The network switching device of claim 37:

wherein the egress module is further configured to generate a pause release frame indicating one or more of the classes of service to be released when one or more counts for the respective classes of service fall below the predetermined threshold for the respective classes of service;

wherein the ingress module is further configured to receive a ~~[[the]]~~ pause release frame;

wherein, in response to the received pause release frame, the egress module is further configured to resume transmitting the frames of data having the one or more classes of service to be released.

39. (Original) An integrated circuit comprising the network switching device of claim 37.

40. (Original) A network switch comprising the network switching device of claim 37.

41. (Original) An output-queued network switch comprising the network switch of claim 37.

42. (Previously Presented) The network switching device of claim 37, further comprising a memory including the buffers.

43. (Original) An integrated circuit comprising the network switching device of claim 42.

44. (Previously Presented) A network switching device comprising:  
means for storing a plurality of counts for a plurality of classes of service,  
respectively,

means for incrementing each count upon enqueueing one or more buffers storing one or more frames of data by sending a pointer for each of the one or more buffers to one or more output queues, each of the frames of data having one of the classes of service, and

means for decrementing each count after the one or more frames of data stored in the one or more buffers are transmitted from the network switching device;

means for generating a pause frame indicating one or more classes of services to be paused when the one or more counts for the respective classes of service exceed a predetermined threshold for the respective classes of service; and

means for ceasing to transmit frames of data having one or more of the classes of service to be paused upon receiving a pause frame.

45. (Previously Presented) The network switching device of claim 44, further comprising:

means for generating a pause release frame indicating one or more of the classes of service to be released when one or more counts for the respective classes of service fall below the predetermined threshold for the respective classes of service;

means for resuming transmitting the frames of data having the one or more of the classes of service to be released.

46. (Original) An integrated circuit comprising the network switching device of claim 44.

47. (Original) A network switch comprising the network switching device of claim 44.

48. (Original) An output-queued network switch comprising the network switch of claim 44.

49. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving one or more frames of data from a channel using an ingress module;

storing a plurality of counts for a plurality of classes of service, respectively;

incrementing each count upon enqueueing one or more buffers storing the one or more frames of data by sending a pointer for each of the one or more buffers to one or more output queues, each frame of data having one of the classes of service;

decrementing each count after the one or more frames of data stored in the one or more buffers and having the one of the classes of service are transmitted from the network switching device;

generating a pause frame using an egress module, the pause frame indicating that one or more of the classes of service to be paused when one or more counts for the respective classes of service exceed a predetermined threshold for the respective classes of service; and

ceasing to transmit the frames of data having the one or more classes of service to be paused.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, further comprising:

generating a pause release frame indicating one or more of the classes of service to be released when one or more counts for the respective classes of service fall below a predetermined threshold for the respective classes of service; and

resuming transmitting the frames of data having the one or more classes of service to be released.

51. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having a stored computer program embodying instructions, which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to control an apparatus having an ingress module connected to a channel and an egress module connected to the channel, the instructions comprising:

instructions for receiving one or more frames of data from a channel using an ingress module;

instructions for storing a plurality of counts for a channel for a plurality of classes of service, respectively;

instructions for incrementing each count upon enqueueing one or more buffers storing the one or more frames of data having the respective class of service by sending a pointer for each of the one or more buffers to one or more output queues;

instructions for decrementing each count after the one or more frames of data stored in the one or more buffers and having the respective class of service is transmitted from the network switching device;

instructions for generating a pause frame using an egress module, the pause frame indicating that one or more classes of services to be paused when one or more counts for the respective classes of service exceed a predetermined threshold for the respective classes of service; and

instructions for ceasing to transmit the frames of data having the one or more classes of service to be paused.

52. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 51, the instructions further comprising:

instructions for generating a pause release frame indicating that one or more of the classes of service to be released when one or more counts for the respective classes of service fall below the predetermined threshold for the respective classes of service; and

instructions for resuming transmitting the frames of data having the one or more classes of service to be released.